

# College of San Mateo

Executive Report to the Board of Trustees • November 17, 2010

## **ASSISTANT SECRETARY JOHN TRASVIÑA SPEAKS AT CSM**

**John Trasviña**, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Housing and Urban Development, visited CSM, and spoke about the current agenda of fair housing in California and the nation. He also addressed the importance of neighborhoods and local government in promoting immigrant integration into the larger society. His visit coincided with Hispanic Heritage Month, and within that context, he noted the historical contributions of Hispanics to the U.S. in that they fought in every war dating back to the founding of the country. Mr. Trasviña encouraged students to get involved in government and social issues. His office administers and enforces federal laws and establishes policies

that ensure all Americans have equal access to the housing of their choice. Upon being nominated for his position by President Obama, he went on to be unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate in May 2010. Mr. Trasviña has a well-established family connection with CSM: his father, Juan, taught in the broadcasting program in the 1970's and his sister, Nicky, worked at KCSM as a broadcast engineer in the 1980's and 90's. This event was sponsored by CSM's Diversity in Action Group. (Upper photo, from left: John Trasviña, Modesta Garcia, Henry Villareal, Mike Claire)





## ***STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: SEBASTIAN GRILLO***

### ***Engineering Major Builds His Future at CSM***

**Sebastian Grillo**, a native of Colombia, followed a less traditional path to CSM: he began his college education at an out-of-state university. Upon moving from Florida to California, the civil engineering major contacted several potential universities to which he considered transferring. All of the schools gave him the same answer: *complete your general education requirements at a community college*. “I wasn’t thrilled with the idea of attending a community college. However, once I visited CSM I was sold by the campus’s breathtaking views and friendly atmosphere.”

When classes began at CSM, Sebastian was immediately impressed that subjects he needed for his major -- science, engineering and physics— had between 20-30 students, unlike those same classes at large universities. Small class size allowed him to interact and build strong relationships with his professors and peers, which Sebastian believes contributed to his academic success. “The caliber of the

education that I received at CSM was impressive; so many of my professors had degrees from some of the most prestigious universities in the nation.” Sebastian acknowledges **Professor of Engineering Laura Demsetz**, who was his instructor and advisor, as someone who played a significant role in his academic career. “Professor Demsetz was very helpful in making sure I choose the correct classes for my major and that is critical for community college student who intend to transfer.”

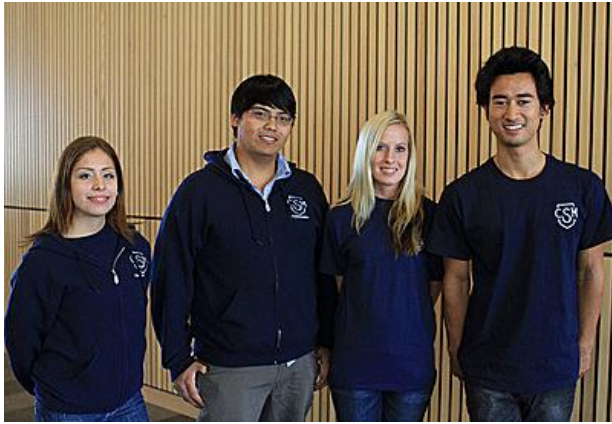
Sebastian forged a closer connection with CSM when he became involved in student government serving as a member of the Student Senate. Through his participation in student government, he had opportunities to interact with faculty and members of the administration, including the college president and vice president. For his contributions as a student leader, Sebastian was honored with the Allan R. Brown Award, the college’s prestigious service award.

“CSM gave me what I needed in order to continue my education – it allowed me to fulfill my general education requirements and transfer to San Jose State University (SJSU) in 2009 to complete my civil engineering studies. I was fortunate that the college offered engineering courses that were transferrable and helped me to get ahead faster once I transferred. My experience at CSM was tremendous and it was absolutely a high caliber education.”

Sebastian’s experience at CSM also provided a unique career opportunity. With major construction underway at the college, Sebastian took the initiative to contact CSM’s construction contractor about internship positions with the company. In summer of 2008, he was hired by McCarthy Building Companies as a project intern for several construction sites, including CSM. The position provided practical, real world understanding about the inner workings of the construction industry.

In spring 2011, Sebastian will graduate from SJSU with his BS in civil engineering. He recently passed the grueling Fundamentals of Engineering Exam, a national test offered by the Board of Land Surveyors and Engineers, a prerequisite to sitting for the Professional Engineering Exam. He is swiftly moving toward his career goal of becoming a general contractor.

His thoughts in retrospect about attending a community college: “CSM completely changed my perspective toward community colleges. I am a strong advocate for them now!”



### ***STUDENTS REACHING OUT TO STUDENTS***

A team of six talented CSM students selected to serve as the college's Student Ambassadors for 2010-11 were introduced to the college community at a reception in their honor. The Student Ambassadors Program, currently in its fourth year, has become a vital component of college's outreach efforts. Student ambassadors serve as liaisons between the college and local high schools, lead campus tours and assist with on-campus activities such as Operation Welcome Mat and Connect to College; they also represent the college at community events. This year's student ambassadors are **Arianna Avendano, Shawn McGriff, Jenna Finegold, Alex Madayag, Justin Hoffman and Kelsey**

**Harrison**. The program is conducted by **Alex Guiriba**, program services coordinator, with the Community Relations and Marketing Office.

### ***TRANSFER DAY REPORTS RECORD NUMBERS***

Based on the number of students who showed up to speak with university representatives, this fall's Transfer Day was a resounding success! As UC and CSU campuses continue to report impacted enrollments, it's no surprise that this event would be well-attended by CSM's transfer-bound students. According to **Mike Mitchell**, program services coordinator and coordinator of the event, approximately 700 students participated which provided steady business for the 42 colleges and universities that were represented. While the UC and CSU campuses received the most attention, many of the private/independent and out-of-state institutions also reported significant student interest, and some indicated that the number of students far exceeded expectations. The table for CSM's Transfer Services and Transfer Club was consistently busy with students requesting information and signing up for services. The Transfer Club has become so popular that 40-50 students turn out for the weekly meetings, setting an attendance record among campus clubs.



### ***2-DAY HEALTH FAIR ATTRACTS CROWD***

Promotion of a healthy lifestyle was the theme of CSM's Health Fair 2010. More than 900 students and members of the college community attended this very popular, two-day event which included participation by many local health organizations as well as CSM's allied health programs. A number of services were provided free of charge or at a minimal fee to students, faculty and staff, including: flu shots, blood pressure screening, cholesterol and blood sugar testing, eye exams, yoga and fitness information, and acupressure and massage demonstrations. The Health Fair was coordinated by **Sharon Bartels**, health services coordinator, and **Gloria D'Ambra**, office assistant.



## TWO NOTABLE AUTHORS MAKE APPEARANCES TO PRESIDENT'S LECTURE SERIES

The President's Lecture Series: Diverse Voices in Writing kicked off its eighth year with two prolific and award winning Bay Area-based authors, **Michael Chabon** and **Anne Lamott**. Michael Chabon, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, screenwriter and essayist spoke about "The Secret Origin of Kavalier and Clay," and traced the different influences (his father, a boyhood friend, his interest in comics) that ultimately brought about the book, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*.



Chabon's first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* (1988), originally written for his master's thesis at U.C. Irvine, became a *New York Times* bestseller. His second novel, *Wonder Boys*, was also a bestseller and was made into a critically acclaimed film featuring actors Michael Douglas and Tobey Maguire. He shared story credit for the film, *Spiderman 2*. His third novel, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, which has been selected as the focus of the 2010 One Book One Community: San Mateo County Reads Program won the New York Society Library Prize for Fiction, the Bay Area Book Reviewers Award, the Commonwealth Club Gold Medal, and the Pulitzer Prize.

(Photo, from left: Mike Claire, Lorrita Ford, Michael Chabon, Michele Alaniz, Sandra Comerford)



The best-selling author **Anne Lamott** made a return visit to CSM to speak about the creative writing process, and more specifically, the process that she follows. Lamott is the author of six novels and four bestselling books of nonfiction: *Operation Instructions*, an account of life as a single mother during her son's first year; *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*, a guide to writing and the challenges of a writer's life; *Traveling Mercies*, a collection of autobiographical essays on faith; and *Plan B: Further Thoughts on Faith*. She has been honored with a Guggenheim Fellowship and has taught at UC Davis, as well as at writing conferences across the country. Lamott's biweekly *Salon Magazine* "online diary," *Word by*

*Word*, was voted *The Best of the Web* by *TIME* magazine. Her new novel, entitled *Imperfect Birds*, was published in Spring 2010. (Photo, from left: Mike Claire, Anne Lamott, Bernard Gershenson, Sandra Comerford)

During the receptions that followed both lectures, Chabon and Lamott signed copies of their books for members of the college community. The lecture series is supported by generous contributions from the **Lane Family Charitable Trust**.



### **RETIREES CAPTURING COLLEGE HISTORY**

A group of district retirees --**Gus Petropoulos, Ken Kennedy, Rick Zanardi, and Bill Rundberg** – form the core committee that is the force behind the Oral History Effort. This committee has been capturing CSM’s and the district’s history through a series of on-camera interviews. Interviewees include retirees and former employees from all three colleges and the District Office. One of the latest interviewees was **President Emeritus Shirley Kelly**, as seen in the photo, being interviewed by Gus Petropoulos.

Venues for interviews include KCSM studios, CSM’s Theater and off-site locations including Ashland, Oregon,

(retired CSM faculty member **Bob Smith** interviewed by Bill Rundberg) and Medford, Oregon, (retired **Chancellor Glenn Smith** and former retired **Dean Leo Bardes**, interviewed by Gus Petropoulos. Additional off-site interviews are planned.

Between the Oral History Effort and interviews from the KCSM program *Voices of CSM*, produced in 2004, which included interviews of students from the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's, the number of video oral history interviews is 69 and growing. The Oral History Effort began with support from KCSM, the President’s Office, library and theatre staffs, and continued support has been supplied through the District Office and the CSM Theater.

### **KUDOS**

#### **WAY TO GO BULLDOGS!**

College of San Mateo’s baseball program continues to experience great success both on and off the playing diamond. Not only was the 2010 team the State champion runner-up but 15 players transferred to four-year universities, 12 of whom received athletic/academic scholarships. For more than a decade, **Head Baseball Coach Doug Williams** and his staff have played a major role helping nearly all CSM baseball players transfer to universities. Members of the 2010 bulldog baseball team who received athletic/academic scholarships (denote with \*) and their transfer institutions are as follows:

UC Davis: **Ryan Allgrove,\* Joe Biagini**; San Francisco State University: **Trevor Pasiecznik,\* Chris Schindler, Andrew Suvunnachuen,\* Tomas Wood,\*** Sonoma State University: **O'Koyea Dickson,\* Nick White,\*** UC San Diego: **Justin Burns,\*** UC Santa Barbara: **Joey Wallace,\*** York College: **Pat Burford,\* Josh Trejo,\*** University of Hawaii-Hilo: **Steven Riddle,\*** Oregon State University: **Glenn Wallace;** and Concordia University: **Josh Saio.\***



### ***CSM STUDENT BECOMES NASA AEROSPACE SCHOLAR***

CSM student and mechanical/aerospace engineering major **Young Park** has been selected to represent the college in the National Community College Aerospace Scholars Program (NCAS). NCAS offers an opportunity for community college students nationwide to participate in an online interactive learning experience culminating in a unique onsite research opportunity at NASA. Young, a graduate of Lowell High School, will research the possibility of a mission to Mars and then team up with other participants to compete for a Martian rover contract. Each team will be led by NASA scientists and engineers. Young qualified for the program by completing all of the required online lessons focusing on a Martian robotics proposal with a grade of at least 93. The selection process was very competitive and only a small percentage of applicants from across the nation were offered the opportunity to attend the onsite experience at NASA. He and the other student scholars will travel to the NASA Johnson Space Center in Houston later this month.



### ***NURSING PROGRAM BENEFITS FROM FEDERAL GRANT***

The San Mateo County Health System is the recipient of a \$2 million federal grant that will be carried out by its partners which include **CSM's Nursing Program**, along with UC San Francisco, Stanford University, San Mateo Medical Center/Primary Care Clinics and Health Plan of San Mateo. The funds which cover a four-year period will bolster primary care and behavioral health services for individuals with mental illnesses and substance use disorders. The grant will make it possible for CSM nursing students to present health information to members of the community, thereby providing students with community health nursing experience to further enhance their nursing background.

### ***BULLDOGS TAKE PLEDGE AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE***

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, more than 100 members of CSM's football team signed a pledge against domestic violence. At a workshop that featured two-time Super Bowl winner and former San Francisco 49er **Darryl Pollard**, sexual violence in the context of professional and college sports was discussed. Pollard met with members of the bulldog team as part of the CSM Athletic Department's speaker series and life skills development program which helps athletes achieve goals on and off the field. **Dr. Marla Lowenthal**, professor of mass communications at Menlo College, led the life skills portion of the program which focused on how to avoid situations that could lead to sexual assault. The workshop received significant press coverage that included a segment televised on CBS News and articles in the *San Jose Mercury*, *San Mateo County Times*, *Burlingame Patch*, and the *Houston Chronicle*. **Tim Tulloch**, assistant football coach, coordinated the event.





### ***DEAN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN STANFORD RESEARCH PROJECT***

**Dean of Creative Arts & Social Science Kevin Henson** has been invited to participate in the opening strategy session of a multi-year research project, "Reform and Innovation in the New Ecology of U.S. Higher Education" at Stanford University in early December. The central goal of the project is to develop a new social science of higher education that will enable rapid improvement in organizational efficiency, student persistence and graduation in broad-access colleges in the U.S. The opening session will provide answers to questions about the purpose, financing, content, and clientele of colleges and universities. It will be conducted by Mitchell Stevens and Michael Kirst of Stanford University's School of Education. The project is supported with funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.



*Kevin Henson*



### ***THE FORCE IS WITH CSM ART INSTRUCTOR***

Art instructor **Noah Buchanan** has had his painting, "Your Father's Lightsaber," (photo) published in Lucasfilms' *Star Wars Art: Visions*, a large book of art inspired by Star Wars films. Buchanan is one of approximately 100 contemporary artists whose work appears in the book. The painting has also been added to the private collection of George Lucas.

### ***FAIR CREATES LINKAGES FOR STUDENTS AND EMPLOYERS***

Last week, Career Services hosted the annual Autumn Job Fair that brought employers and students together to discuss employment opportunities. During the three-hour event, students met with employers to learn about current openings, explore career possibilities and find out about various companies and their products and services. In addition to a wide representation of businesses, a portion of the event was reserved for accounting employers who plan to hire for the 2011 tax season; they met with students who will be receiving their accounting and/or tax certificates. **Eileen O'Brien**, career counselor, coordinated the event.



### ***ASU LEADER VISITS CSM TO DISCUSS TRANSFER***

On November 9, **Dr. Maria Hesse**, vice provost for transfer partnerships at Arizona State, visited with members of CSM's management team to introduce herself and discuss details of the office established by ASU dedicated to assisting transfer of students to the University. Dr. Hesse is in the process of visiting several California community colleges which have the largest number of transfers to ASU.

### ***SAVE THE DATE!***

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Bulldog Bowl will take place at College Heights Stadium on Saturday, November 20. Kickoff is at noon. As of this writing, the competing teams have not yet been named.